

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for reducing the number and severity of acne lesions on the skin of a mammal comprising the step of administering a sensory regimen in an amount effective to downregulate the activity of the HPA axis of said mammal in combination with the administration of an anti-acne composition comprising an anti-acne agent; wherein said sensory regimen comprises at least two stimuli selected from the group consisting of auditory stimuli, visual stimuli, tactile stimuli, gustatory stimuli and olfactory stimuli, ~~and combinations thereof~~ and is effective to downregulate the activity of the HPA axis and wherein said activity of the HPA axis is downregulated by at least one of the following methods: (1) reducing the amount of total daily adrenocortical hormone; (2) reducing adrenocortical hormone at any time point in the period from about 4 to about 8 hours following morning waking; (3) reducing the total daily adrenocortical hormone minus the integrative measure of morning peak adrenocortical hormone.
2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the anti-acne composition is administered orally or topically.
3. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the anti-acne composition is administered topically and the anti-acne agent is selected from salicylic acid, sulfur, lactic acid, glycolic acid, pyruvic acid, urea, resorcinol, N-acetylcysteine, retinoic acid, benzoyl peroxide, octopirox, triclosan, azelaic acid, phenoxyethanol, phenoxypropanol, flavinoids, derivatives thereof, and mixtures thereof.
4. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the anti-acne agent is selected from benzoyl peroxide, salicylic acid, and mixtures thereof.
5. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the anti-acne agent is a pharmaceutical compound selected from isotretinoin and tretinoin, adapalene, tazarotene, azelaic acid, minocycline, doxycycline, erythromycin and clindamycin and mixtures thereof.
6. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the anti-acne composition is administered orally and is isotretinoin.
7. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the anti-acne composition further comprises an antibacterial agent.

8. (previously canceled)
9. (currently canceled) A method according to claim ~~8~~1, wherein the sensory regimen comprises olfactory stimuli provided by an effective amount of a relaxing fragrance present in the anti-acne composition.
10. (currently amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the sensory regimen ~~further~~ includes visual stimuli comprising soft lighting.
11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein the sensory regimen ~~further~~ includes auditory stimuli comprising music.
12. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the sensory regimen is administered daily for at least one week and comprises olfactory stimuli comprising soaking in a bath fragranced with a relaxing fragrance in combination with auditory stimuli comprising listening to relaxing music.
13. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein the sensory regimen ~~further~~ includes visual stimuli comprising soft lighting.
14. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the reduced activity of the HPA axis results in a reduction in adrenocortical hormone levels of said mammal.
15. (original) A method of improving the quality of life of an individual by use of the method of claim 1.

Claims 16-53 canceled.